

## **ABSTRACT**

1           A rail switch is provided having an improved throw rod to enable testing with  
2   damaging the switch. The throw rod includes a housing on its length, with a piston  
3   and spring located within the housing. A locking pin locks movement of the piston  
4   during normal operation, causing the throw rod to act as a solid rod as previously  
5   used in the art. The locking pin can be removed during gap testing, to enable a  
6   small amount of play in the length of the rod. This eliminates the stress caused on  
7   the switch by testing.